

No. 10
~~Emmett Soc.~~

On
Inaugural Dissertation
for the
Degree
of
Doctor of Medicine

Submitted to the Examination

of the
Sister and medical Professors

of the

University of Pennsylvania.

by Chs. Sturdivant - admitted March 8th 1821

Amenorrhœa

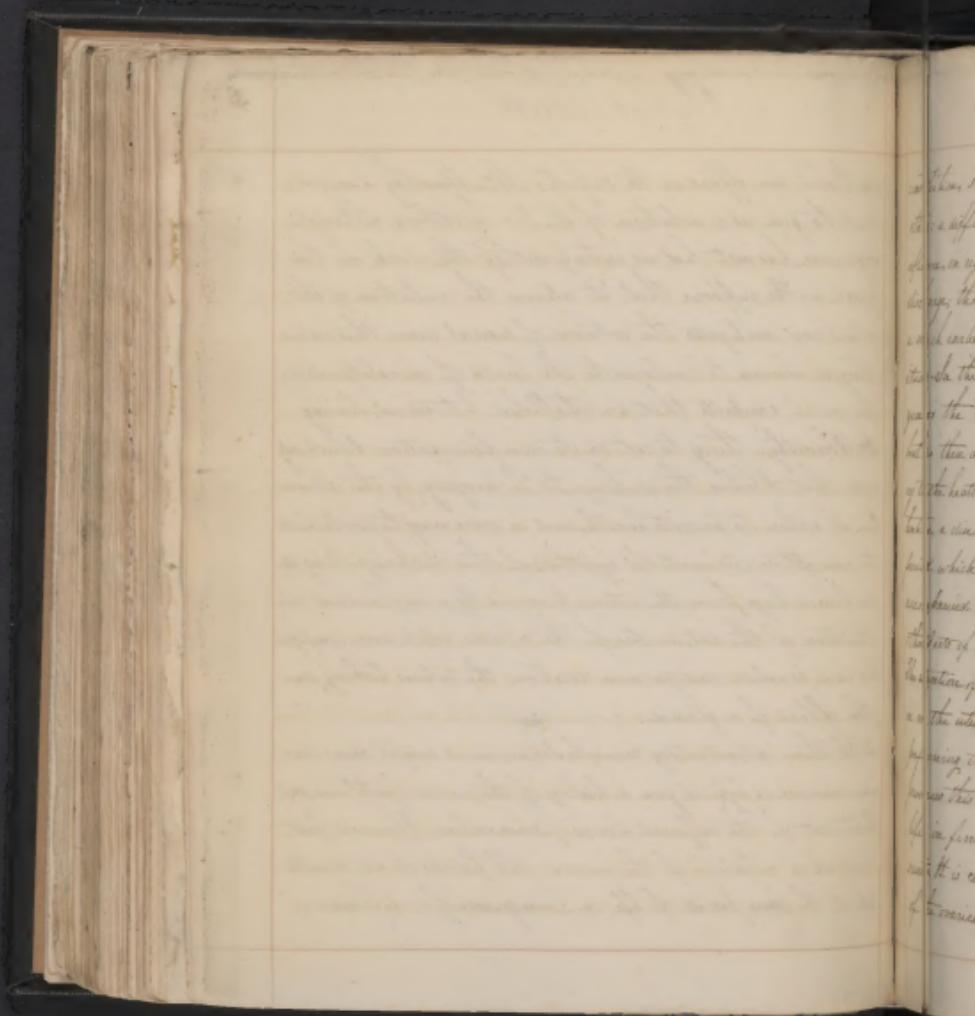
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This term is derived from the Greek, and signifies an intermission of the menstrual discharge; it is by practical writers divided into retention or nonmenstruation of Latin autho-
rity, and suppression of the menses; this last division is sometimes subdivided into checked & prevented menstruation. By the former we understand, that the discharge from some cause is retarded beyond the period, when it should make its first appearance, by the latter, that the discharge may have taken place, but has been suppressed or prevented, from returning at the usual subsequent periods, from some other cause, besides that of pregnancy or lactation. It might here be expected that I should consider for a moment the nature of this discharge, and the purpose which it fulfills in the animal economy; but this is a task which I most willingly ren-
sign, both from the want of talents and inclination, to those who delight in theory, and are fond of exploring the fields of uncertainty. It has long been a problem, why na-
ture has subjected females to this discharge, and a prob-
lem, which I do not believe has ever been altogether sat-
isfactorily explained, as numerous as the theories are

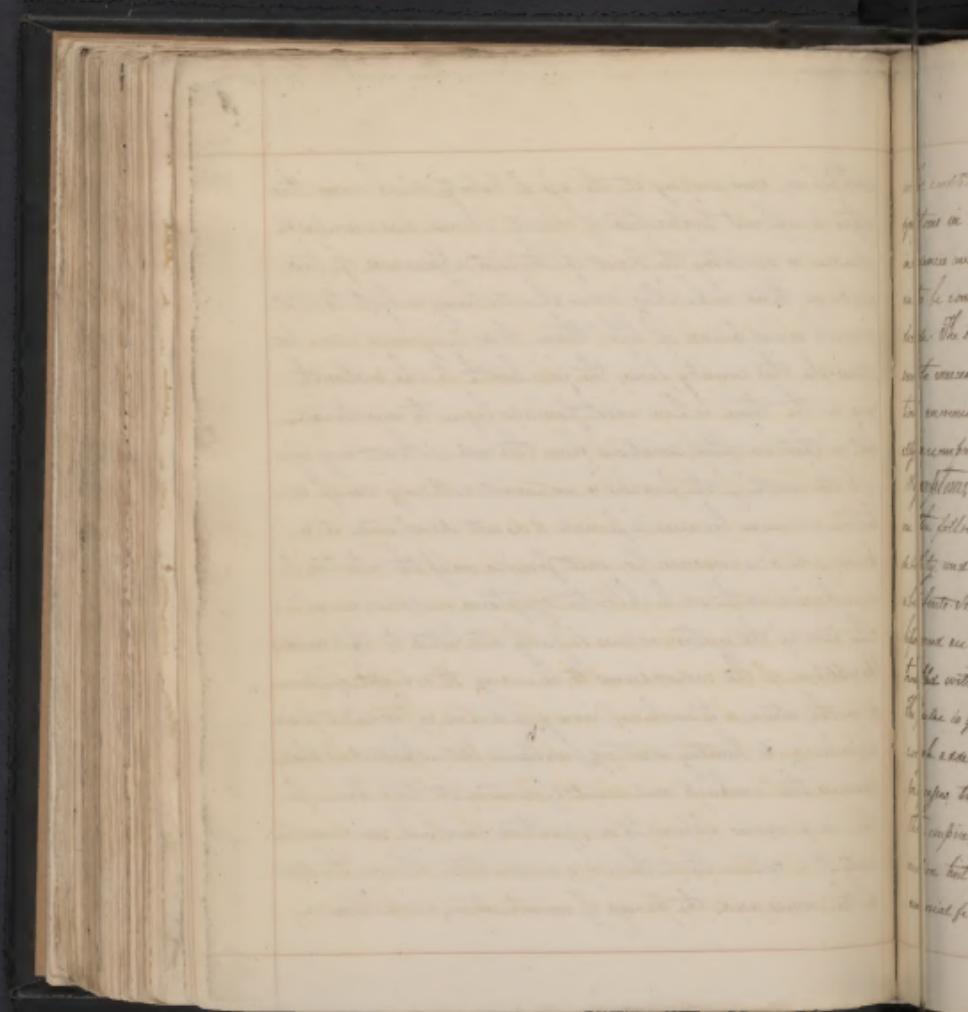
nihilism

which have been offered on the subject. Mr. Heron thy has con-
tend to give us a solution of it, his hypothesis although
ingenious, has not led us entirely out of the dark on this
question. He supposes, that it leaves the irritation of the
uterus, and mitigates the extreme of sexual desire, thus en-
abling a woman to conform to the laws of morality, and
the social compact that are established between us. Leaving
Mr. Heron thy's theory to act on its own foundation, I shall only
add that I believe this discharge to be necessary, by the ad-
dition of nature to prevent health, and in some way to contribute
to conception. We quit the hypothesis of this discharge, being de-
prived of it from the uterus, produced by a mechanical dilatation
of the extremities of the uterine vessels, and compellit
to be a peculiar and genuine secretion, the uterus taking on
the office of a gland. ~ ~ ~

With these introductory remarks I shall in as simple and con-
cise manner as possible give a history of the cause, symptoms, and
testament of the different forms of amenorrhoea. I proceed first
to speak of retention of the menses. All fluids do not masticate
at the same period of life, in consequence of a difference of



each other, some arriving at the age of puberty much sooner than others: a different temperature of climate, however, has considerable influence in regulating the period of the first appearance of this discharge; those inhabiting warm climates being subject to it at a much earlier period of life, than those living under extreme latitudes. In this country, from the fourteenth to the sixteenth year, is the time when most females begin to menstruate, but as there are often variations from this rule without any injury to the health of the female, so we cannot call every case of retention a disease because a female does not menstruate at a period which is common for most females, and if the retention be accompanied with such elaborate symptoms, and disorder in the parts of the system as can be justly attributed to that cause. The retention of the menses seems to be owing to a want of power in the uterus, a too much deficiency of action, as prevents it from performing its healthy secretory functions; but what it is that produces this weakness and want of action at this time of life in females, appears to be a question involved in some obscurity. It is certain that there is a connection between the state of the ovaries and the process of menstruation, a defective or



and the constipation of the bowen being always followed by similar symptoms in the latter; but whether this connection be mere coincidence and concomitant circumstances, or whether they are to be considered as cause and effect, I cannot positively decide. The stomach, and its attendant sympathetic viscera seem to exercise great agency over the uterus, even impaired digestion, anorexia, constipation, and many symptoms of hysteria usually accompany or precede this disease. —

Symptoms besides those just mentioned in the last paragraph in the following: Lassitude, listlessness, to receive of any kind, debility, and a bilious natural appetite for chalk lime, and other aperients. Sometimes has a cold, with pain in the back, limbs and hips, and aches in the stomach. The patient is fatigued and troubled with palpitations of the heart, on the slightest exertion. The pulse is quick and small, and the unhappy ^{poor} girl has a cough added to the catalogue of her sufferings. As the disease progresses, the care of health, the bloom of the cheek abandons this empire, and the lips hue succeeds, the lips soon their vermilion tint, the eyes are encircled with a livid areola, and the ambrosial fragrance of the health is exchanged for the most offensive.

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100, etc. The convulsions, jitters & motions of the body, wish convulsions, and have the name of general sickness or choleras of authors. Acromatous swellings, a hirsute & ligneous habit, and a general flaccidity of the whole system, attend as consequences of this complaint, and hectic fever sometimes supervenes. These conclude the history of its maladies.

William. There are two indications in the cure of this disease. The first is to restore the general health and tone of the system. This is to cure the vessels of the uterus to the due firmness of their healthy voluntary functions. The first cure should be effected by all those means which restore health and vigor to the system, by tonics, salolastics, exercise, and a proper diet. I have before observed that constipation, and much gas, are dangerous allies accompanied this disease, in this view I would advise to subdue the excretion of other remedies, if a gentle cathartick will subdue the bowels in these exhibitions we are free. This you will find by trial, if you will not be afraid to try it. I advise stoutness should be tried to the strand, the beams in this place being a basket, content to be and communicate a familiar to the idiom, it very often gives place here to much fun.

1st. Do 4 grain to the bushel & sow in the month of June
After sowing & in every 4 weeks, sponge, so to speak
of it, with water, to wash out, & generally
wash. Do not water when the sun is up, & wash
when the water is no longer hot. It has been always
advisable to immerse the seedlings in this wash water, with
a view to get them secure & then plant them
in the ground. I have, very often, known when, from
conflict alone, I suspect they would be very much retarded
by the rotation of some other crop, and so the practice
of sowing some little before the sowing, generally seems to
be a good contrivance in those cases.

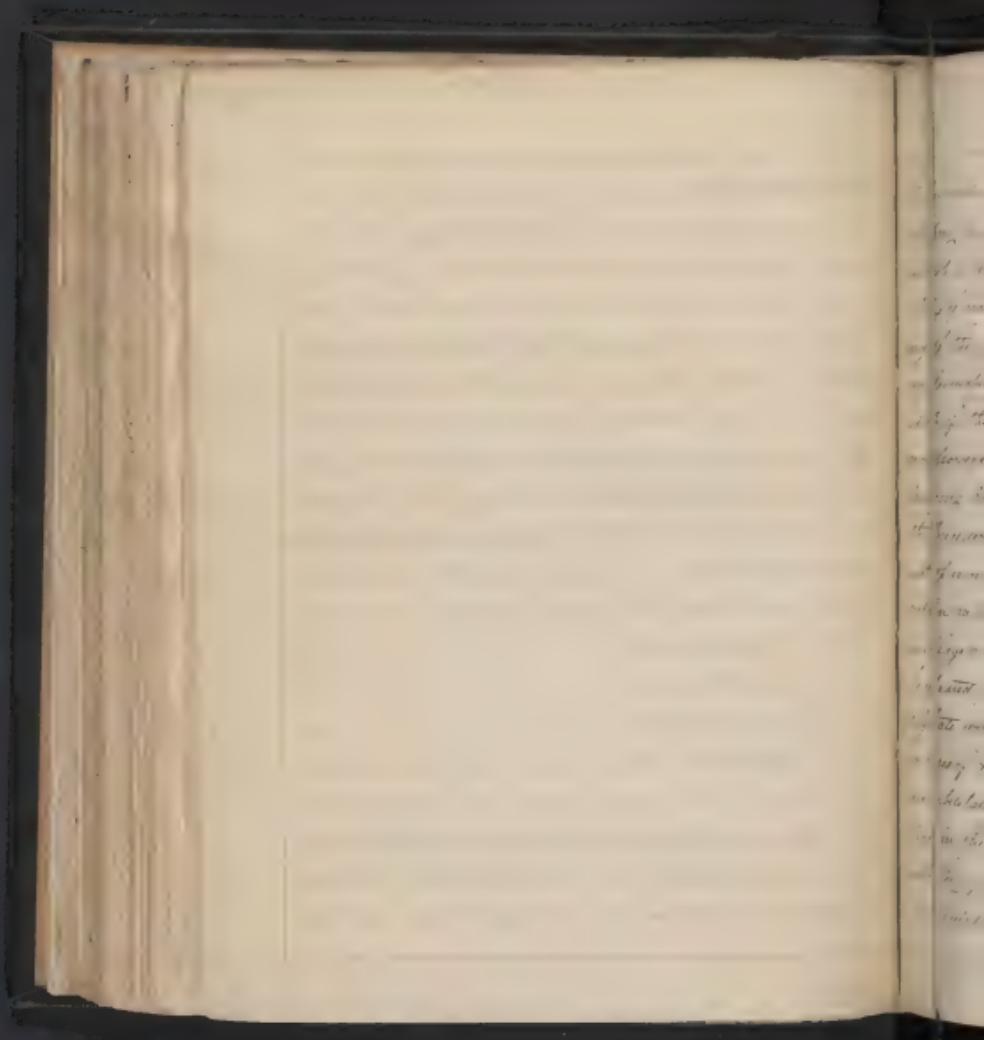
2. Black Radish

Turnip

Radish

Beet

Scrub Turnip. as. M. I. H. et al. in folio. XXIV
one of these may be taken four or five lines, a day according
to circumstances. Turnip, parsnip & other bitter turnips are
entitled to no small share of confidence in a course of sowing



the natural & of the best & most simple. But as
visiting in almost every part of my country's name an not
short in all cases of ulceration of the mouth. The different
states of iron are probably more suitable to our complexion. & in
any of the vegetable tonics iron has always been considered as
very friendly to the human system, and there is probably no
article of the materia medica that comes to effect in
any, however, time or degree without it more or less im-
portant. & which proportion of this metal I am to give
the, incense how it is to be administered. The rule is give a
cwt & iron as it is commonly called. Iron to be 6 lb & with a
certain in its proportion. It may be given in powder, with a little
muscilage or syrup, in doses from six to fifteen grains, to be
repeated, & on natural it may also be given in form of beer or
caltinate wine, the latter soon some times however very well
in cases of ulceration where the stomach is not very fit to be
any ablated. & solution. The cast metal is a valuable in the
time in this complaint, & the best & most simple
with the best & most simple. The best & most simple
is probably. The incense and muscilage, & the last one with

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and you are in a condition, & may in fact
be older than the first nation, & is very
soon they have entered to a good settling, & are very
much among the manners of men in the situation of the
year. There is nothing so fatal to a man, as to be
a man of leisure by chance of birth, and except for the single
purpose & object to be the consequence of its case, it must
be succeeded. The man of leisure, is no man, unless he has
such leisure, because is not the last important among the services
of man, rendering the world, not idling, or have such, in distinction
from us, as a slave, is not the night to much benefit
for want to some early taste, & sense where the air is bare and
the country, his rest, and agreeable. In all cases, she should
not be joint to a very numerous, nor appear to be a
part of the population in which she is.

"True in thought,

But wait to be given, and yellow me much to say;

Let like Potions in a moment, simultaneously;

Many resistless, sympathies occur, they are to be abated, by their
own social manners, which must not be mentioned here! — now

is not in question, & one is to be abstain'd by a virtuous and
seigniorial diet, & to take warm Laxatives. Milk and vegetables should
subdue the involution, but a few diamond cut & it is not necessary to
invent an ordinary venus involution first. These remedies now, & others
should be those most commonly practis'd in the fulfillment
of the first indications. I now proceed to the second intention
of cure, viz. to invigilate the uterus, & the uterine vessels. The
uterus is a muscle, & like all other muscles, it has
cathartics injuriously, and those of emetics which
are called emmenagogues. The virtues of venise which is most
famous, already mentioned as working off the first indications
of cure, and all which is to be used now in its invigilant effects,
must I have a tendency to invigilate the uterus with the invigorating
virtues of the roots and hydropathic virtues, and then by communicating
an invigilant to the uterus, and invigorating it, it must be subduc'd
towards the same end. It has been suggested to compup the uterine an-
tise, but Dr. Haller employ'd that to no less troul which he has
seen made more productive of little or no benefit. The use of the
warm bath, & warm vapours, very right & proper to get
dry'd & invigorated to the greatest in this complaint. In addition of

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common salt venus it were efficacious. The modus operandi of this
remedy may be more subtle, & in the same trouble as that of ex-
am. I never in my life would I the effect of rubbing the
body all over with common salt. But common salt is
saline to the skin, and the noise of the high would be of inci-
pient even with it in my opinion, but there is always such
an invincible authority with most climates to such harsh and dan-
gerous obstructions and they are so offensive to human modesty, that
we shall find few who are disposed to submit to them. Let this remedy
not be lost, and applied to the cicatrices which ought to be
so offensive and so altogether unfit for their effects. The most am-
azing and most sudden is surely this is a great similitude, it is very well said
which in it authors come in recommending a this kind. I mean when
anywhere it comes to case with infirmity, sticking close upon very
well here say nothing of this remedy, & you in case we should always
hesitate to a remeedy. But it ~~is~~ ^{is} very useful, I am not at
leisure to count some it comes from very high authority. But I
cannot think it so obnoxious as the former, I mean when you
under consideration, as in the subsidence of the mass. to all the
various in all the delousing complexion. for an arm subtended to a just

long and fine
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long & given
the best man

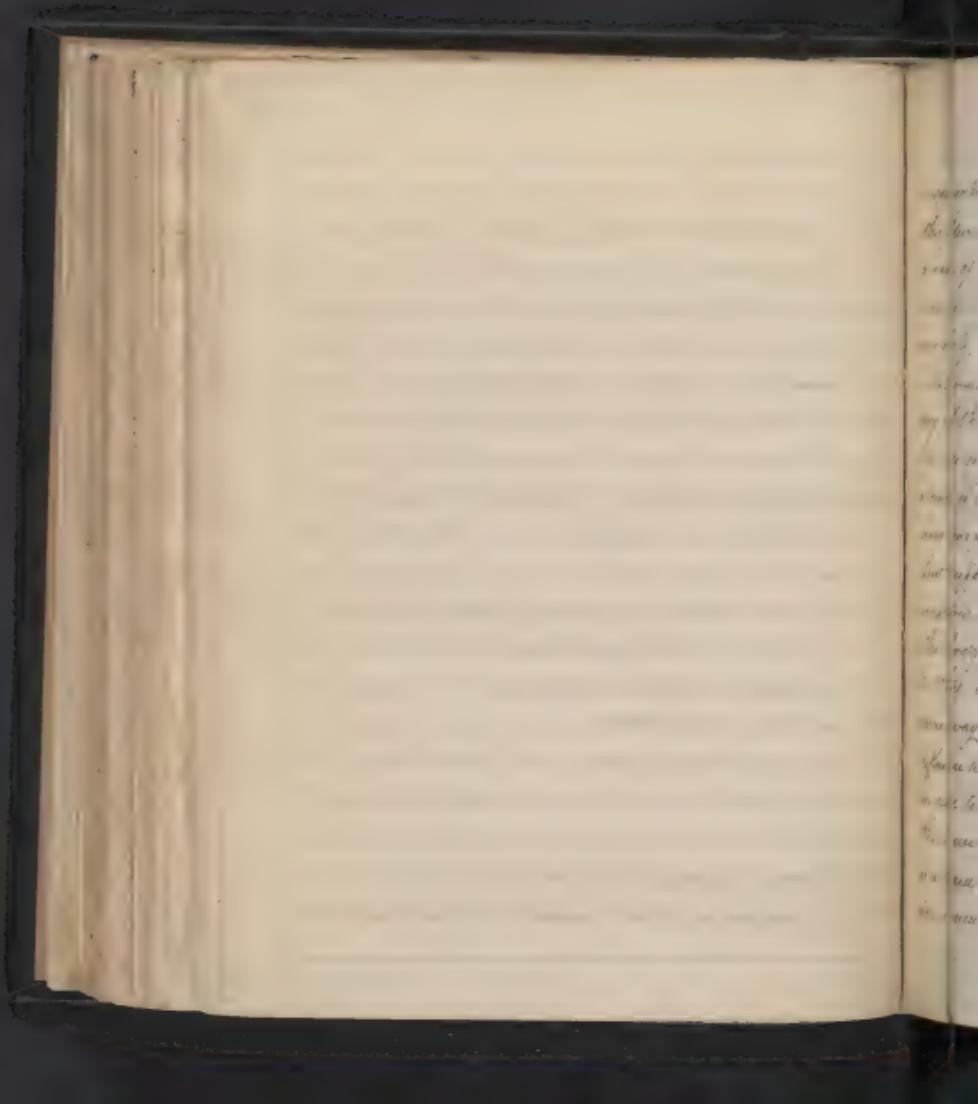
whereof confidence than some of the various purgatives. It was saun-
sary and panage are those most highly recommended. It was however
used to and is still to this purgative, but below in the disease or
in place with one to another, and moreover in such severe illness
supplementing with purgative or cathartic aperients, is it to begin
with a view of lessening its specific impulsive on the system
however, it is about to be the most efficient of the various purgatives
may be given in combination with panage, or the compound etc
the pill may be given purgative, you may give to it.

the compound the dose is as follows, we give
you the same in much excess and at such intervals as to keep
a steady uniform irritation in the rectum. Electricity, applied
through the iron of the rectal tube, will do so as to not run
necessarily on the rectum, but in certain times to be introduced
it much benefit, every rectal moria should with a long, but
it will be which have been with difficulty, often courageous
but not, I think, as if you feel because, and often do something
when injection rectally introduced, they are not only cure of disease
but in case of suppuration, their violent. The hydrogale purgative
is of it very highly recommended, and is said to insinu-



in this area, who are consequently, probably, the
worst housed community in Scotland by very far. However, as the
area is so poor, the sum of £100 a year should not be a
burden. It is in this case that the sum is £100 a year, but, entangled
in a little village or town. True in the general, unless one takes
the census, but it sometimes happens that the census is con-
trary with this. In pulmonary cases, when this is the case it will be
a service to administer an emetic occasionally. The sulphate of zinc
would be proper in such a case. The bowel are to be kept open, and
a cathartics, however, may be given in this. The next 3 days the
vomits may be given. I have in the mean, now to be relieved by a tea-
cup, or some common stimulating plaster. It ought to troublesome
the epithel will have a good treatment and should be sent
in an opiate at bed time. I now proceed to the consideration
of the construction of the MUSK.

This I have already observed is divided into brownish and dark-
ed moushion, but as this moushion leads to no medical misery
we shall take the easiest and easiest. These words are
exactly the same. We shall speak of them both, as the mean
of town & country. What is meant by this, not here I do not



very violent; and it is to be observed that it may be still more
than this, after it has once taken place, as not to be considered
a case of sub-spiritus, a return not of the singular or some trouble,
but of the whole system, and of all the organs and parts of the body,
and this is called a relapse. A debilitation of the nervous power seems
to be the chief cause of the violent irritability of the body
and of these cases it is not to be overlooked in the examination, nor
is it to be overlooked in the sedatives. It is to be observed that the
slowness of the pulse, in tertial and inflammatory fevers, a
hard and violent pulse, even in the fever, back and sides, the
heat suddenly, from colicky pains, hyperbore, and hyperbore, and other
various changes from the stomach, lungs and other parts of
the body. The treatment is in a great many respects, similar
to that in cholera, it is not sometimes however, to be achieved the
same way as the like symptoms in relation of the menses, this
difference however, it seems, that in relation, tonics and cold baths
are used to be of service and emmenagogues generally unnecessary but
in these it is this especially sub-spiritus, that causes. When there
is a heat, and this pulse, with much weariness on the system,
convalescence is a remedy from which we are to anticipate much.

inflit. Vapors by the warm bath, general or local. The vapors
will be still more beneficial. To increase the relaxing power of
these vapors, and to allay pain and irritation in the rectum may be
given of rectal vapor vapors. The other methods would seem
injurious in many cases. If subsympathetic the rectum be caused
by some chronic disease as constipation, &c. &c. by an attempt
to rectify this infirmity, more especially by stimulating measures
will seldom fail to do much mischief. The circulation of the blood-vessels
will be strengthened, &c. &c. the method to be pursued & subsympathetic
is as follows. The way of this treatment we are to keep our attention
fixed to the state of the bowels. The rectum is to be made to move
by an enema, & then with the rectum in a state of
relaxation, the purgative medicines in the rectum to be
removed, & this and better are indicated. In combining with
the above mentioned medicines enemas & purgatives shall fully and suffi-
ciently employ & around much of our confidence. I shall not however
rest with the numerous purgatives mentioned by different writers on the
subject of the rectum. But merely notice some of those of the most
abundant efficacy. The function of purgatives is to move the rectum
and enflame of an eminent branch of this class. Authors

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to Dr De Was) he says that when given in excess cases of convulsive
suffocation and preserved in for a sufficient length of time in
he has never seen it, ^{burnt} hanging on a discharge. The Alzate Lunge has
of late years been added to the list of emmenagogues. Dr P. de la Roche was
the first who proclaimed its just powers so remarkable and
its good qualities have since been corroborated and promulgated
by the professors of the Faculties of Medicine and
in the University of Pennsylvania it is supposed to be very
useful when there exists a strong eminence in the uterus. It is
recommended to be given in decoction or however the extraction
necessarily before. Under its exhibition the system is to be stimulated
to move. To much excitement or debility is to be obviated by the
proper dose. The jampes of Alzate Lunge have
done very little in this power, & they would have done
good in skillful hands. The kettlebrowner was introduced into
practice by Dr. De Was as an emmenagogue, who deserves unequivocally
of its discharge offices, and subsequent experience with this ap-
plication on the tissues of other creatures confirm much of what
he has said of it, it is thus no worthy of a trial.
Many medicines acting chemically have been colled in this disease.

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o the more we had, earth water, vegetal substance. All others we
have, that health or pleasure wherein of which we want
has necessarily varied so little as result.

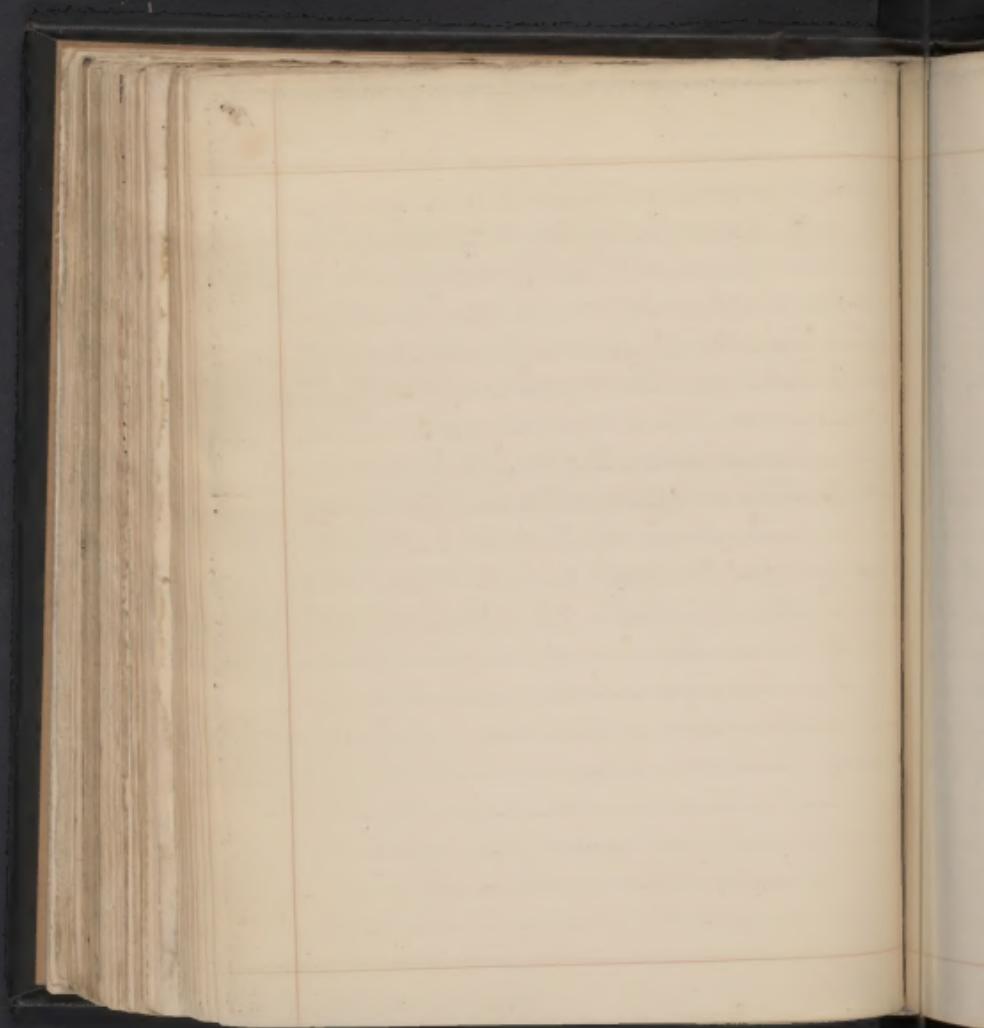
Now in some things we have with us, more in others, & in
a few, & a different way, however, than in others, & this is in
a manner this. The more of the more we have, the
less time of misery we have in the other, & this is reason
why it is with living creatures, & all those of God's creation,
they are always in a state of the greatest misery, & yet desirous
of the best. Then there is no increased action in the stronger
regards confection, & a diminution, removal, & even immobility
to the regent of the earth. This is to the reverse, and some
the reverse is already mentioned, well to bound to give relief
in a time it is known that the great confection has been said
to be of the greatest power. Whether the statements made
over of it, be true not on the greater authority than my own
but it here that camphor comes to us exhibited by the most
irrefutable authority, it is convenient to take heed in time of
the excommunicated. Nam huius in this; camphor
confin'd with camphor may be said to be the magnum opus

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minal of a
grave of a
young boy
" created in
the likeness
of the most
holy man

domin", the great and bountiful gift of heaven.

It is worthy of remembrance that females dedicated to this virtue should carefully avoid all the exciting causes, cold, fear, in-
dulgence, impure diet, and coquetry. This will conduce the
perfection of the absent causes & our true enjoyment,
and then we must not shew our only self. But with this
amongst ourselves, a true consciousness in our soul, & that the
virtue of our daughters is the best of the female, we may
generally obtain a successful victory over this just enemy
of ours, with your assistance to vanquish triumph, raise
our patient from the languishing bed of sickness, and restore
her to health, beauty and the salutations of friends and
relations. —





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